

REMARKS

The claims have been amended to remove the necessity for a restriction requirement between Groups I and II. Claim 1 has been amended (as it was in the International Phase) to require at least two sialic acid units linked 2,8 and/or 2,9 in the polysaccharide. This distinguishes the composition of claim 1 from the cited patent US 5,329,028. Therefore, the compounds of Group I and of Group II have a common technical feature in that all of them require at least two sialic acid residues coupled to a functional moiety pendant to a terminal unit. Thus, unity-of-invention is present.

Should the Office determine otherwise, applicants elect to prosecute the invention of Group I with traverse.

The claims of Group III, directed to a process for making the compound of Group I or of using it, are believed eligible for rejoinder in the event that the elected claims are allowed. Claim 11 has been made dependent on claim 1 in view of this. However, in light of the common technical feature now present in both claims 1 and 11, it is believed that unity-of-invention is present and that the claims of Group III should not be withdrawn from prosecution in the current application.

New claims 23-29 represent dependent claims which reflect the preferred embodiments of claims 12, 14 and 15, which were not in a form preferred by U.S. practice, and further reflect the limitations of current claim 10 as applied, however, to the process claims.

Claim 7 has been amended to correct an obvious error in the first definition of R^1 and R^2 .

No new matter has been added and entry of the amendment is respectfully requested.

